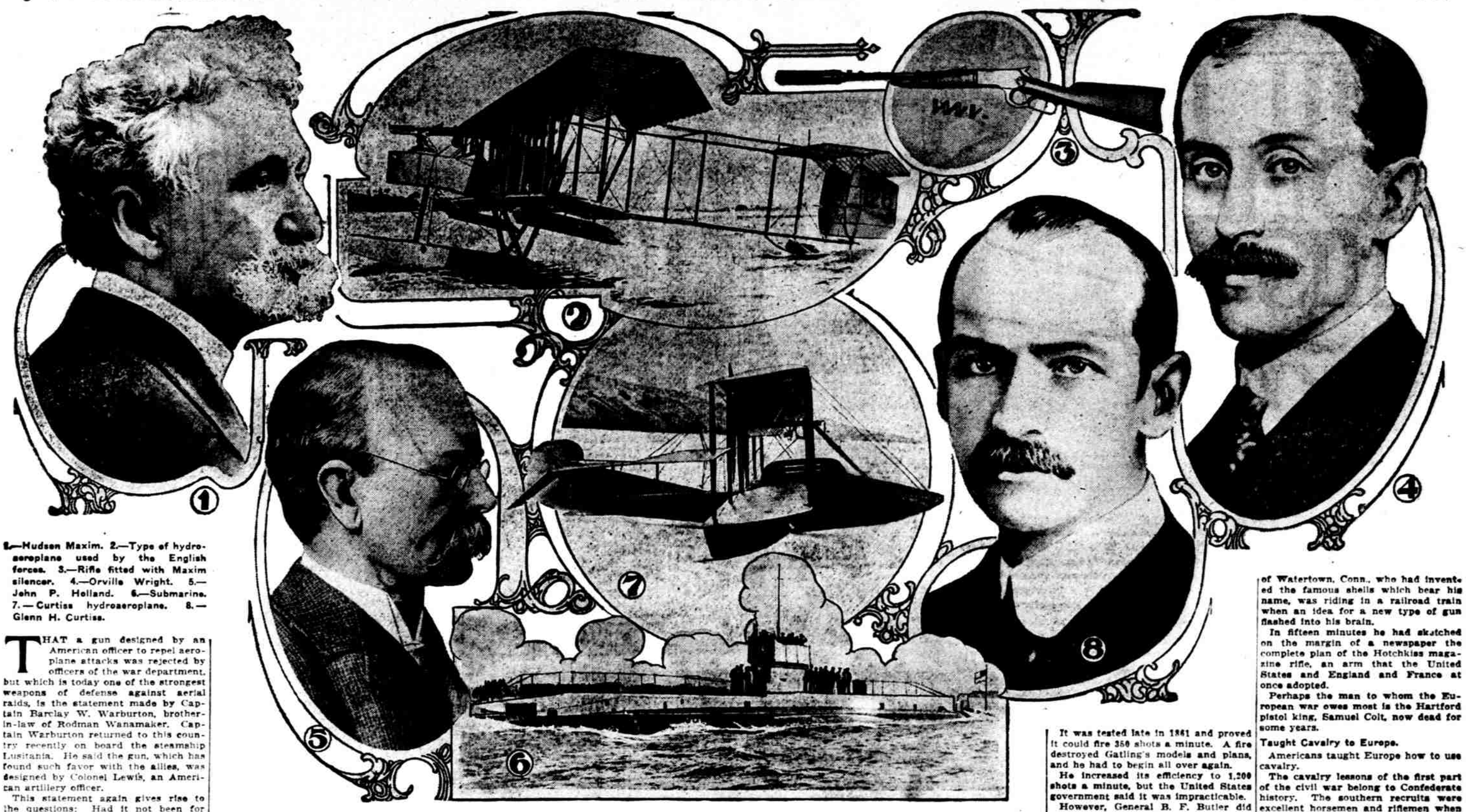
A PAGE OF TIMELY READING

AMERICANS DESIGNED GREAT MACHINES OF WAR



1.—Hudson Maxim. 2.—Type of hydroaeroplane used by the English forces. 3.—Rifle fitted with Maxim silencer. 4.—Orville Wright. 5.—John P. Holland. 6.—Submarine. 7.—Curtiss hydroaeroplane. 8.—Glenn H. Curtiss.

THAT a gun designed by an American officer to repel aeroplane attacks was rejected by officers of the war department, but which is today one of the strongest weapons of defense against aerial raids, is the statement made by Captain Barclay W. Warburton, brother-in-law of Rodman Wanamaker. Captain Warburton returned to this country recently on board the steamship Lusitania. He said the gun, which has found such favor with the allies, was designed by Colonel Lewis, an American artillery officer.

This statement again gives rise to the questions: Had it not been for American inventors could the greatest of machine wars ever have started? Had not the military leaders believed they had the best rapid fire, reloading guns and the finest aerial and submarine craft going, would they have risked all to engage in the present conflict?

Had it not been for Yankee genius it is possible there would have been no war. We hear much about French aeroplanes, German submarines, the superb Russian and Prussian cavalry equipment, the wonderful repeating and reloading guns, which keep the air full of projectiles, but these are not originally European inventions, for the most part the great machines of destruction are of American origin.

While admitting that dynamite was the invention of an Englishman and that the wireless telegraph, which is directing troop movements, was the invention of an Italian, and while admitting many of the wonderful war equipments have been developed by Europeans, yet we must consider that American genius was the starting of most of these things.

One of these inventors in particular, a kindly New Englander, is responsible for many of the deadly things of the day. He was visited at his home at Maxim Park Landing, N. J., recently, where no one would have suspected he would have invented anything to kill people with.

Invented Smokeless Powder.

Yet Hudson Maxim was the inventor of smokeless powder, enabling men to shoot at other men without revealing their place of concealment. He invented Maximite, a powerful explosive, which pierced armor plate and was used in the destruction of the forts at Liege and Mons. He invented a powder for driving torpedoes. He invented a torpedo ram which will sink a ship without exploding and killing the passengers. He also invented a condensed food for use of soldiers on the march.

Another living American is Orville Wright, who, with his brother, Wilbur, invented the aeroplane. The aeroplane is one of the greatest deciding factors of this war.

If a Boston carpenter had not become interested in perfecting a patent whereby a rifle could be fired several times without reloading, today's repeating rifle—the very basis of all military operations—might never have been devised.

The repeating rifle, invented by Oliver F. Winchester, had its baptism in the civil war. Winchester became interested in a device of a Massachusetts genius, known as the "volcano," which would fire several successive cartridges.

Winchester took over the patents, made practical by means of one improvement after another, and founded the Volcano Repeating Arms company.

His success was tremendous and soon the firm's name was just Winchester.

Up in Sangerville, Me., a bright young machinist named Hiram Maxim, a brother of Hudson, had, as a boy, won fame by inventing a gas machine and an incandescent light. He undertook to fire his father's muzzle loading musket. The recoil knocked him down.

The incident stayed in his memory. When he grew to manhood he decided that the "kick" of a gun wasted a lot of power that might better be utilized in adding to the efficiency of the shot.

Working along this line, he made the first Maxim gun in 1882, a gun which fired 170 shots a minute "by the power of previous wasted force."

The Maxim-Nordenfelt company was formed, and the rattling purr of its guns sounded around the world.

Next year Maxim patented an electric aiming gear for large guns, since used everywhere, and in 1889 made strides in bringing the flying machine nearer practicality. In the meanwhile he had become a British citizen and in recognition of his inventions was given a title. He is now Sir Hiram Maxim.

Inventor of Gatling Gun.

The rapid fire gun, from howitzer to mitrailleuse, in all its dozen of varieties, was born more than fifty years ago, when Dr. Richard Jordan Gatling, who had already a score of useful inventions to his credit before he ever turned his mind to war appliances, saw, soon after the opening of the civil war, a regiment of half starved soldiers marching. Their heavy guns semed to load them down.

"I'll invent a gun which will do their work for them!" declared Dr. Gatling, and he did.

He wanted to make the soldiers' work lighter. He did, but also made it more dangerous. He wanted a machine that would do the work of a hundred men. And within a few months the first Gatling gun was ready for use.

It was tested late in 1861 and proved it could fire 350 shots a minute. A fire destroyed Gatling's models and plans, and he had to begin all over again.

He increased its efficiency to 1,200 shots a minute, but the United States government said it was impracticable.

However, General B. F. Butler did not agree with the army experts. At his own expense he purchased a dozen of Dr. Gatling's "toys." Their tremendous success caused the government to adopt the new invention post haste, and all other countries followed suit.

He sailed to Calcutta when a boy and whiled away his time thinking about a small rifle that would fire several shots quickly. For the next ten years he continued to think about it. Suddenly the whole thing came to him. He told Uncle Sam about it—the government laughed.

But when Zachary Taylor bought 1,000 of the new fangled weapons for his cavalry every one began to take notice.

Ericsson, with his ironclad, really gave the world the armored battleship, and he invented also the screw propeller. He got the first patent on it. And when it comes right down to it, Fulton first made a ship go by steam.

One day in 1875 Benjamin Hotchkiss of Watertown, Conn., who had invented the famous shells which bear his name, was riding in a railroad train when an idea for a new type of gun flashed into his brain.

In fifteen minutes he had sketched on the margin of a newspaper the complete plan of the Hotchkiss magazine rifle, an arm that the United States and England and France at once adopted.

Perhaps the man to whom the European war owes most is the Hartford pistol king, Samuel Colt, now dead for some years.

Taught Cavalry to Europe.

Americans taught Europe how to use cavalry.

The cavalry lessons of the first part of the civil war belong to Confederate history. The southern recruits were excellent horsemen and riflemen when the war began. All they needed was a little primary military drill to make them efficient. It was two years before the north could train men to equal them. Each Confederate cavalryman furnished his own horse, relieving the army organization of considerable worry and labor.

Previous to 1861 cavalry had been used principally to charge wavering or disorganized infantry and pursue a defeated enemy. The Confederates, under such able leaders as Stuart, Morgan, Forrest, Wharton, Wheeler and later the two Lees, developed the cavalry raid as a feature of the military campaign.

Stuart had contended that a compact body of cavalry could operate on the flanks and rear of an opposing force at will, so long as the enemy did not have an equally efficient mounted arm. His picturesque parade around McClellan's camp on the Chickahominy in 1862 completely substantiated his stand.

General Scott Tells of His Wonderful Hold on Red Men

Photos by American Press Association.

General Hugh L. Scott and group of Piute Indians.

GENERAL HUGH L. SCOTT, chief of staff of the United States army, at a dinner of the Bonneville club in Salt Lake City, paid a tribute to what he called the primitive virtues of the Indian, and he sought fair treatment of the four Piutes whom he had brought from San Juan county to Salt Lake City.

He said the Indians were simply grownup children, with a child's keen sense of justice and injustice, stunned by a civilization to which they could not adapt themselves. He said he had always found that the Indians kept their agreements.

"I have more real trustful friends, friends who are willing to lay down their lives for me," he said, "among the wild red men of the plains and mountains and the wild Mohammedans of the Philippines and the islands of the Pacific than I have among the people of my own race. The man who would deal with the Indians is the man who proves truly their friend; the man who will not had better keep away from them."

General Scott's story of the pacification of the Indians follows:

"We left Washington to come out here to attempt to settle this little misunderstanding on March 3. With me were Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. L. Michie, my aide-de-camp, and Trooper P. R. Randolph of the Fifth cavalry, my orderly. We reached Thompsons on March 8 and went to Bluff, going by automobile wagon, sleigh, horseback and on foot. At Bluff we learned that Polk and Posey and their Indians had gone to the Navajo mountains, about 125 miles west of Bluff. We stayed a day in Bluff and then went to Mexican Hat on the San Juan river, twenty-eight miles west of Bluff.

"We sent a friendly Piute, called Jim's Boy, out to tell the Piutes that I wanted to see them. Some of them came in near where we were camped, but it was not until the third day that any dared to come to the camp.

"Posey and four other Indians then came into camp. We talked a little through a Navajo interpreter. It was in the evening, and I just asked them how they were. I told them I did not feel very well and did not want to talk to them until the next day. They helped us kill a beef, and we gave them a good meal, the first they had had for weeks. They were poorly clad, and we gave them some blankets. Posey and his men did not have any weapons, but I have reason to suspect that they had hidden them in the rocks near by.

"The next day Polk and Hatch and about twenty-five others came in to see me. I asked them to tell me their troubles. They said the cowboys had come in the daylight on horseback and surrounded them, shot their children and wounded a squaw. They said they did not like the cowboys. It seemed they had previously had troubles with the cowboys.

"Then I told them some of my troubles. I told them I didn't think they would like to have their children chased by soldiers and cowboys all over the mountains and killed. I didn't try to push matters with them. I told the agents to see that they had provisions and blankets for the rest of their people and for their squaws and children. I told them that after they had thought matters over I wanted them to tell me what they wanted to do about it. They talked together and then said they wanted to do just what I wanted them to do.

"Then we sat down in a circle, and I said: 'The marshal wants you and you and you, indicating Posey, Polk, Hatch and Posey's boy, 'to go with him to Salt Lake. The rest of you can go back to your people and go to the reservation with the agents. Is that all right?'

"They said it was, and further they said that if I said so they would all go to Salt Lake. Then we broke camp and all rode ponies back into Bluff. We rode ahead and let the Indians follow us. They have never been ironed or shackled, never have been led to believe they are prisoners. They never tried to get away. Why, I don't believe we could get rid of them if we tried. At night they have slept together and nobody has stood guard over them."

NEW YORK'S KID COPS WORK WONDERS

"FOLKS have the idea we're rearing a bunch of toughs and gun men down here on the east side. We got to show 'em they're wrong."

This is the reason why Captain John F. Sweeney of the Fifteenth police precinct, New York city, has organized the "kid cops" in the most congested tenement district in the world. Captain Sweeney knows the east side and the east side youngsters. For twenty-nine years he has watched the mimic warfare between the boys who shoot craps, build bonfires on the pavement or play baseball in seething streets and the policemen who try to stop all of this.

Captain Sweeney thinks it high time these old enemies understood each other. He wants boys to find out policemen weren't created to chase youngsters, his own patrolmen to learn that small boys weren't born to pester the police and people in general to know what a fine lots of citizens in the making are growing up in these crowded tenement homes. So he has recruited the junior police force, and Commissioner Arthur Woods has given sanction to this latest effort in line with his own plans for preventing as well as punishing crime. "Cheese it, the cop," may yet slip from the vocabulary of the east side.

Just as a police district is divided into precincts, so the Fifteenth precinct, stretching from Rivington street to Fourteenth street, from Fourth avenue to Avenue B, has been divided into twelve zones under supervision of the junior police. Each zone is in charge of a captain appointed by Captain ("Commissioner") Sweeney. The captains choose their own officers, a lieutenant and two sergeants, and a squad of twenty-one patrolmen is selected from applicants. There are now about 300 on the force, and as these prove their efficiency the number will gradually be increased from the 200 or more names on the waiting list. "We started to organize last August," said Captain Sweeney, "and now we have a crowd waiting in front of the station every afternoon trying to get on the force."

Each member is required to pass a physical examination and to learn the pledge of the junior police before his application for membership is considered. These tests passed, he may become the proud owner of a nickel badge with his number in the force stamped upon it to wear on his breast.

There are four varieties of badges for the four grades of officers, each modeled after the insignia of the city police. Captain Sweeney has donated the badges himself and fears he may go "broke" if the force swells its membership much further.

The pledge, which must be kept in order to retain the badge is: "I promise on my honor to do my duty to God, to my country and to obey the law; to obey the motto and the rules and regulations of the junior police force of the city of New York, to keep and never misuse my junior police badge and to surrender it upon demand to the chief of the junior police." And the motto which makes this pledge more than a formula of words requires that every officer "be honest, be trustworthy, be loyal, be helpful, be polite, be obedient and be brave."

Daily reports of work done or "tips" to the senior force are dropped for Captain Sweeney in a report box at the Boys' club on Avenue A and Tenth street, and superior officers meet with their chief every Tuesday night. At these meetings the boys are made familiar with the municipal ordinances regarding cleanliness of streets, fire prevention, etc., which they have set out to enforce as well as the duties and organizations of the New York city police. Public school No. 63 has provided a drill room and drill masters for the squad twice a week, and the junior officers may give drills themselves at the school every day.

New York's boy cops and Police Commissioner Arthur H. Woods.